

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

The P. M. S. S. Co's steamer Zealandia, Captain Webber, arrived at 4:30 p.m. on Monday last, with dates to the 21st ultimo. The following news items are clipped from foreign papers:—

The firm of Messrs. M. Waterman and Co., of San Francisco have made an assignment. They state the liabilities to be \$1,500,000, with assets fully equal, provided they were allowed to realize on them themselves. The chief cause of their financial embarrassment was owing to the continued low price of wheat in the Liverpool market and the consequent losses by their grain charters. For more than six months there had been a marked decline in the English wheat market, and in spite of every effort to save themselves, they found the task impossible. The principal creditors are the First National Bank, put down for various amounts ranging from \$200,000 to \$250,000, due on advances, secured by warehouse receipts and assignments of other property.

John J. O'Brien, whose third trial for embezzlement of State funds from the Harbor Commission, was concluded late on the 17th ultimo. The jury returned a verdict of "guilty as charged." This was received by O'Brien with great astonishment, as he confidently expressed himself, not thirty minutes before, as being certain that he would be acquitted. He was to be sentenced on Tuesday, the 29th ult. It is said that his attorney will move for a new trial.

CAIRO, Jan. 20.—Khartoum still remains open to Cairo. The appointment of "Chinese" Gordon is generally welcomed, and it is said receives the cordial sanction of the Government.

KHARTOUM, Jan. 18.—It is reported that a number of dervishes here have summoned the people to join El Mahdi. A great army is expected here in ten days. English sovereigns, recently popular in the bazaar, are now refused, or only taken at a discount. This is regarded as ominous. The bearing of the people has totally changed, showing that some strong influence is at work.

LONDON, Jan. 20.—The Times says: General Gordon goes straight to Suakim, via the canal. He will meet Baring, the British Consul-General, at Suez, and come to an agreement in regard to co-operation of the English authorities with Egypt as far as may be necessary. Moussa, chief of the Hadendowa tribe, whose sons General Gordon saved from death, to which they were condemned by the Egyptian officers for making raids, will be summoned to Suakim, and General Gordon will go with his escort to Khartoum, where he will assemble the heads of the tribes and announce he has come on behalf of England that to restore their liberty, and remove the adventurers who have been a curse to the country. He will also inform the chiefs that the slave trade must cease. As soon as he has finished his task in Sudan he will go to the Congo country, and deal with the slave trade at its headquarters. General Gordon expects to be five months in Sudan. The King of the Belgians has asked the English Government to send them an English officer to act in General Gordon's place in the Congo country.

LONDON, Jan. 21.—The Times says: The evacuation of Sudan south of Khartoum is a condition precedent to all healthy reorganization of the mass of Egyptian soldiers. It is officially estimated that 40,000 men have been let loose on the country in the name of occupation. This lawless horde of plunderers must evacuate the territory before Sudan can become tranquil.

PARIS, Jan. 20.—Two meetings were held to-day in furtherance of the proposition to revise the Constitution. Speeches were delivered favoring a social resolution. One meeting decided to organize a fund to raise a monument to the communists who were shot.

New York, January 18.—The Herald's cablegram from Hongkong of January 17th says: The Chinese seem to be in earnest in the defence of Canton. I have just returned from a trip on both branches of the river. I saw junks dumping stones on the north beach below Whampoa. Back of the beach piles are being driven for a bridge. Where a bamboo bridge a mile long crosses the rice fields both barriers are covered with heavy batteries mounted

on earthworks. On both sides of the river and on the intervening land are large encampments of soldiers. In the Bogue forts and in the vicinity of Canton drilling was going on yesterday. To-day they are executing various evolutions and firing blank cartridges. In the Bogue forts artillerymen have constant practice with the 16-ton guns. The French Consul at Canton protests against the blockade of the river. The German Consul has referred the matter to his Minister at Peking.

New York, January 16.—A private letter from a gentleman residing in Canton, dated December 5th, says: "China is determined to fight, and war can only be avoided by France backing clear down to the ground. France has made an awful muddle of the whole affair. Had she acted with force at first Tonquin would be hers and everything would be quiet. The idea of occupying the country with only a thousand or two troops is too absurd for serious contemplation, but that is just what France has attempted. France, in her delay and want of resolution, led China to believe that fear has kept her back, and this idea has taken such hold of China's mind that she will not be satisfied with anything short of the complete surrender of the position which France has assumed in Tonquin. Troops are pouring in from the north and are being raised here." The writer says that a Chinaman told him the other day: "It is no use trying to get along peaceably with a country like France, which is the most troublesome nation that ever existed. China must rise up as one man and crush the pride of the French. Germany tried it, but, although she succeeded in winning the day, she stopped short of the mark. So now it rests with China to complete the humiliation of proud and arrogant France."

Prime Minister Ferry has the following telegram from Tricon, French diplomatic representative in Anam: "Kien, the young King, and the members of the council exercising the regency, formally received me to-day. The ceremony was without precedent and was conducted with Oriental pomp. After salutations were exchanged the King requested me to approach. He desired me to convey to the French Government the assurance of his respect and devotion and expressed the hope that the severity of the treaty stipulated between the two countries would be mitigated. I assured the King of our sympathy and good-will. The King was crowned under the name of Kien Phue, which signifies the height of felicity."

Buenos Ayres, Jan. 16.—Great alarm has been caused at Montevideo by immense tidal waves. One caused the death of a woman bather. They are attributed to volcanic action. Each wave was preceded by a large dark cloud.

Cairo, January 10.—It is rumored that Khartoum has been captured.

London, January 16.—A telegram to the Austrian Consul at Khartoum says that all the higher officers at El Obeid have been massacred.

Rome, January 17.—A conference is discussing the project of a uniform hour system with a common meridian. A Diplomatic conference will shortly assemble at Washington to effect an international agreement on the subject.

St. Petersburg, January 17.—A nephew of Lieutenant-Colonel Sudeiken, wounded by the nihilists who assassinated his uncle, died to-day without recovering consciousness.

The murder of Colonel Sudeiken has exercised a terribly depressive effect among the higher Russian officials. The Emperor summoned Count Tolstoi, Minister of the Interior, and violently reproached him for lack of energy and incapacity. Tolstoi thereupon resigned.

London, January 17.—A summons has been issued against the Park Club for permitting bacarat in its rooms for high stakes. The club has employed eminent counsel, and maintains that the prosecution is illegal. The affair has caused a sensation in the principal London clubs which will be affected by the decision of the case.

Berlin, January 16.—Prince Bismarck is now in better health than for some time. The Prince's son, Count Herbert, has started for St. Petersburg to resume his duties in the German Embassy there.

Rome, January 16.—The brigand Chief Sissie was shot dead in Sardinia by carabinieri while arresting him. He made a desperate resistance.

Theodore Arundel Harcourt, one of the most promising journalists on the Pacific Coast, died on the 20th January at San Francisco. He had been suffering from some lung disease for a long time, and

finally rapid consumption put an end to his sufferings. Mr. Harcourt was only 34 years of age, and went to California in 1869. He made his first literary success in conjunction with W. M. Fisher, on the *Overland Monthly*. He also did some good service for Bancroft in his various compilations. For the last ten years or so he confined himself to writing on the *News Letter* and other weeklies, where his bright pen could always be distinguished.

The new Christian Church in Washington, known as the Garfield Memorial Church, was dedicated on the 20th January. In November, 1880, the work of raising funds began, and subscriptions were received from various parts of the United States, Canada, and England. In May, 1882, the ground for the new building was broken, and the corner-stone laid on the first anniversary of the murder of President Garfield. The attendance was large, including some of Garfield's colleagues in Congress, President Arthur and Secretary Frelinghuysen, who sat in the circle aisle in the body of the church. Governor Bishop, in giving the history of the Christian Church in Washington, spoke briefly of General Garfield's connection with it, and said: "It is now little more than three years since a few members of the church met to inaugurate a work, in the completion of which to-day we all rejoice. In some of our hopes we have been disappointed. He whose election to the Presidency gave such an impetus to the work, and inspired the congregation with new hope and courage, is no longer with us. Ere the work was scarcely begun, he was called away from his high place to a higher. He has gone, but the work, the undertaking of which was so largely due to his Christian faithfulness, had not failed of completion. The church which would have been his religious home has naturally become a memorial of his name, and here, through coming generations, visitors to the Federal Capital will pause and look upon the seat, still with us, which bears his name."

The Times' Washington special says: Senator Morgan still has hopes of securing the ratification of the treaty with Mexico, as Messrs. Cameron, Hampton and Farley, who were not present on Friday, are friendly to the measure. Morgan's only object is to pave the way for closer commercial relations with the Mexicans, who are very anxious to abolish the free zone, and could do so by means of the pending treaty.

Representatives Henley and Glascock were to appear before the sub-committee of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on the 21st January to explain the necessity for the amendments to the Chinese Restriction. Glascock said that they expected "able and prompt report." "We have used every effort," he said, "to get as early a hearing as possible, and I think we will be able to accomplish what the people of the Pacific Coast demand and need. Senator Miller tells us that he is confident that his committee will report the bill, and that it will pass the Senate. We are all sure that it will pass the House."

Mr. Harvey, the English yacht-builder, now in New York, says he can build a cutter in San Francisco as cheaply as the local builders can build an ordinary schooner.

It is proposed to have a grand handicap single-scutt race next year at Chelsea, Mass., open to all oarsmen in the world.

Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express brought to San Francisco the other day, from the United States Fish Hatchery at Northville, Mich., 1,000,000 whitefish eggs, which were forwarded to New Zealand by the S. S. Zealandia.

SPORTS.

The Sculling Race Between Lee and Stevenson—Lee Victorious.

The single scull race between George W. Lee, the Eastern oarsman, and Austin Stevenson of Vallejo, which has been on the tapis for some time, took place on Sunday, the 18th instant, at what is generally known as "Hanlan's course," in Oakland Creek. The name has been given the stretch of water between the wharf of the South Pacific Coast Railroad Company and the rock bank built up at Government expense, because the Canadian champion picked it out and called it the finest course in the world. The race was three miles with a turn. The creek was smooth, without a ripple on its surface, and although the embankment and wharf were lined with boats, extreme care was taken not to impede the oarsmen. The air was clear, and the long wharf was apparently lined with spectators—some

4,000 in number, it was estimated. It can be judged how clarified the atmosphere must have been when 4,000 people were counted on the wharf, but only 900 tickets had been taken in at the gate, as certified to by the railroad employee who settled accounts with the contestants. It must have been a mirage—Market street reproduced on the wharf by the sky. The race was really an exhibition, but as an exhibition it was first-class. Stevenson did his best, and did well. Lee had to row to beat him, and he had to ply his oar at his best to do it. Stevenson tried to win and rowed nobly, but his antagonist was too experienced, too muscular, and far the better man. For an hour before the start both men rowed up and down the creek. Stevenson's shell is a home production, a foot longer than Lee's, and weighing thirty-four pounds, while the latter had a boat from the East two pounds lighter. Stevenson was attired in blue and white. He wore sun-browned legs and side whiskers. Hanlan was the referee and Moorehead the starter. Shortly after 3 o'clock the word was given, and both men tugged at their blades. Lee got the best of the start. He pulled

A LONG AND POWERFUL STROKE.

Twenty-eight to the minute, while Stevenson, when he got fairly under way, feathered his oar every two seconds. Lee turned the stakeboat a length and a half in advance, his stroke dropping to twenty-seven as he cleared for home. Down the course it looked like a close race, but when the men were coming back it could be seen, by the way Lee's oars glittered in the sunlight through the spray, that he held them up too long for a man who had a close race and wanted to win it. The boats came down the creek almost side by side until within fifty yards of the flags, which seemed to bob up expectantly—the red for Lee and the white for Stevenson—when Lee spurred and won the race by half a length. The time was 20.58. Everybody cheered the winner and Stevenson together. The exhibition was considered a good one. Stevenson was complimented on his pluck and the manner in which he handled his boat. Everybody seemed satisfied, except the man who counted 4,000 spectators and was deceived by the mirage, and all returned to the city with a high opinion of Lee, and the feeling that no one except an Eastern professional, and a good one at that, could best the game young man from Vallejo, who was born under the shadows of the grand old trees of Mariposa.

After returning to the city Hanlan, Lee, Stevenson and a number of friends by invitation of Mrs. Moorehead, partook of a dinner at the Pavilion House, on Hayes street. Lee and Hanlan both complimented Stevenson highly for his masterly handling of his shell and powerful rowing.—[S. F. Examiner.]

HOW THINGS ARE MANAGED IN FIJI.

(From the Correspondence of the Sydney Herald.)

In native affairs here it is reported that about seventy people are in prison in a district on Vanua Levu, sentenced by the chiefs, ostensibly on the ground of "disobedience to chiefs," one of the most comprehensive and convenient phrases ever invented for laying hold of an offender with, and describing his misdoings. It is said, however, that while the indictment stands so conveniently vague, the real reason of these men's imprisonment is that they did not, or may be would not, collect the requisite amount of tax produce. Our own more immediate difficulty (the appointment of the Ratu Mark as Roko Tui of this central province) seems settling down in superficial quietness, but very real annoyance. The provincial chiefs maintain a dignified position, and adopt a creditable tone, not sanctioning at all the wilder utterances of some of their irresponsible followers, but they repeatedly and respectfully protest to the Government against an unpalatable appointment, and to the unhappy chief himself who has arrived on the spot and interviewed them, they have made no secret of their sentiments. The Government regard him as a capable and useful officer, who will administer the province better than a chief of less capacity and experience, and perhaps of no principle, whose only merit to the appointment would be an hereditary rank or tribal relationship with the people of the province. In this view one cannot but sympathize with the authorities, but it is an experiment the future working of which is to be watched with curiosity. At the

same time the quiet determined attitude of the protesting chiefs and people is really an interesting study in itself. They are all, at any rate, quite prepared for the consequences of passive resistance, or for the peremptory punishment that has before now been dealt out to political protestants. Under Sir Arthur Gordon's sway, several local chiefs in the Ra province, who had spoken their minds too candidly with reference to their then Roko, were got on board a steamer for a proposed object and then quickly deported to another part of the colony. During Sir William Des Voeux's Administration chiefs have been removed to various regions and on occasions very suddenly. Perhaps, too, for a very good reason. But the most recent case has been given in the leader of the *Fiji Times* of the 8th instant. It may be an *ex parte* statement there, or it may be thoroughly correct, but the gist of it runs thus. A dispute arose at Kadavu between the people of two neighboring tribes as to who had the most right to a piece of land. The point was referred to the Provincial Council, and by them relegated to a certain chief of standing, Buli Tavuki. Buli Tavuki appears upon the scene of litigation on a certain day, and the disputants begin to state their case. Adopting a line of action which would save a great deal of time in courts, he refused to hear the pleadings, would not, like the oft-quoted Scotch judge, "let them wamble in his wame with the toddy," but he claimed that he was there not to hear but to decide. And he did decide—that a piece of country ever so much larger than the disputed plot (which was included) should be handed over by one of the parties to the other. The astounded indignant owners protest, and offer to produce overpowering proof against the view taken by the Tavuki Solon. And on the convenient charge of "disobedience to the Provincial Council," three of the principal protesters have been deported from Kadavu. Such is the case as gravely put by the *Fiji Times*, with circumstantialities of names and places. It is to be hoped that there are other things about the affair known better to the authorities than to the newspaper, otherwise proceedings such as these have an ugly appearance to outsiders, and are never forgotten by the natives themselves. Acts of injustice, of masterful oppression, may seem to be insignificant as splinters are at first, but a festering goes on slowly and a troublesome morbid condition reaches a height which was little contemplated.

THE MAHDI.

The clerical newspaper Vaterland recently published a detailed account of the religious and political revolution in the Soudan, by a Catholic missionary. Father Johann Dichtl, who was a witness of events in that district until April last. According to his description, the Mahdi, Mahomed Ahmed by name, comes from Dongola. He is about 40 years old, tall, and powerfully built: his skin being of a reddish-black hue. He and his two brothers were for a long time employed near Khartoum as ship carpenters, in the building of the Nile boats. But he felt another vocation, and went to a Sheikh on the island of Tuti, near Khartoum, a little to the north of the confluence of the White and Blue Niles, to study with him. Some years afterwards he took an inferior degree and began the life of a Dervish, of the strictest order. He retired to the island of Kana, on the White Nile, and there took up his abode in a dried-up cistern. He never left this habitation for six years, except on Fridays to go to the mosque, and then retired again to his den. In this way he obtained an odour of sanctity over the whole country. Everywhere reports were circulated of his contemplative life and his fasting, of his weeping as he read the Koran, and of his kindness to all who approached him.

A practise arose to know this wonderful man, and to ask his advice in religious matters. Large crowds of pilgrims came to see him, who, on their return, spread his fame. When he was widely known as a saint and was sure of his influence he announced his misser to a large assembly of Mohammedans.

"Twice already," he said, "I have been called upon the Archangel Gabriel to draw the sword of Faith from the sheath, in order to reform the bad Moslem, and to found a Mohammedan world-empire,